been set aside for God – the so-called "shew-bread". (For the relevant laws see *Exodus* 25:30; *Leviticus* 24: 5-9). The implication is that Jesus is operating with the authority of the Messiah. Like his predecessor, Jesus is on "active service" - in a war against Satan. (The kind of blow which needs to be struck in the campaign is illustrated by the next incident.)

Jesus gives two reasons for his attitude to the Sabbath. The first is that the Laws of God should not be regarded as burdens, which you blindly accept: He laid them down for the good of His people. The second reason is that he has special authority in this new and extraordinary situation to ignore the Law, if he wishes. That is controversial, to say the least - and some would say blasphemous!

Jesus later exhorts is disciples to beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod (8:14-21). Because all traces of it had to be removed from the house during the Passover festival, yeast was regarded as ritually unclean. It seems that this saying was prompted by the sight of the bonfires outside "orthodox" households before the festival. Just as yeast expands dough, so the proliferation of rules and regulations by the Pharisees, and the elaborate ritual

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